

New Lake Powell Record



Dwayne Watson and record-breaking Striper.

This is a fish story that could be called "the fish that was, that wasn't, that is!"

Dwayne Watson, of St. George, was fishing on Lake Powell in the Rock Creek area at the beginning of October looking for a concentration of large-mouth bass, in preparation for the U.S. Bass Tournament to be held on Oct. 15-18. Watson got more than he bargained for, however, when he hooked the large striper.

That "Tug-O-War" lasted over 20 minutes and after bringing the fish up from 45 feet on 10# Bagley's Silverthread Line with a Garland Jumbo Gitzit, Watson had to lie flat on the back of the boat and grab the giant with both hands in his mouth to pull it onto the boat.

Unfortunately for Watson, the local marina had no scales to weigh the fish, although the manager said he was sure it was a new lake record. The next nearest marina was 40 miles back to Wahweap, but as Watson and his wife Teddie were

heading to the second marina, their boat spun a hub, which inhibited them from reaching their destination that night.

When the Watsons reached the yacht that night, a group of other pro fishermen aboard estimated the fish to weigh between 45 to 50 pounds. It was measured at 45 inches long and a whopping 30 inches around the girth. It appeared to easily dwarf the existing lake record of 39 pounds 12 ounces.

The problems, which undoubtedly cost Watson the official lake record were: no scales at the marina when the fish was alive and fresh; the hub problems on the boat delaying the trip to Wahweap until the following day; the fish being placed in a frost-free freezer overnight, and a 27-to 28 hour delay and resulting in dehydration from the freezer, all before finding certified scales to weigh the striper.

At the time, Watson caught his striper the record was held by a Colorado woman.

Liz Reitz, a 30-year-old real estate agent from Castle Rock, CO, caught her record striped bass on New Year's Day, 1987. After a lengthy investigation climaxed by a day-long trial in Monticello, last month, Reitz was found guilty of possessing protected wildlife without a valid license, a misdemeanor.

Earlier in March, federal wildlife agents had seized the prize fish as evidence while it was displayed on the wall of Reitz' mother's cafe in Castle Rock. Utah DWR authorities declared the record catch unofficial because it was caught illegally.

The disqualification opened the door for Watson.

One of the major twists of this fish story is that Watson feels his fish would have topped the Colorado woman's 39-pound 12 ounce striper when it was originally caught last October, if he had been able to get it weighed in a timely fashion instead of waiting until late the next day. When he finally found certified scales at Stix Market in Page that could weigh his prize catch, it came up six ounces short of the record, at 39 pounds 6 ounces.

At first the DWR told Watson they were going to get the record dropped back to the previous record of 36 pounds 2 ounces, and they couldn't award it to Watson because a record fish has to be registered within 30 days.

But they were persuaded by Watson's reasoning that, of course, if you're told your fish has weighed in under the record, you don't bother to register it.

Watson was told to get all of his documentation to the DWR, and they will then make a ruling on who gets the record.

Dwayne recently received a certificate and congratulations from the Utah Division Wildlife Resources as they recognized his huge striper as the new Lake Powell record.

Watson has fished professionally and followed the bass circuits in the West for the past nine years. He is sponsored by Ranger Boats, Yamaha Motors, Lowrance Electronics, Outdoor Sports of Arizona, Quantum Rods and Reels and Bagley's Silverthread Line.

Dwayne Watson graduated from Wasatch, and is happy to be back in the Heber Valley. He now resides in Heber City with his wife, Teddie, and their six children, Trase, 19; Ty'Lene, 17; Tierra, 16; Torry, 14; Talli, 10, and Terra, 8. The Watsons enjoy being here, where their dad grew up amid the beautiful mountains, and great fishing streams. Dwayne said it is great to be back and see relatives and old friends.

Dwayne is currently in the area working with a company from Salt Lake City in developing a new line of Bass fishing lures, which will appear under the label "Doc Watson's Fishin' Remedies." He is now ranked seventh in the West as a Pro Fisherman.

Midway Happenings

by Fawn Kohler
654-1028

Monday the DUP of the Hawthorne Camp enjoyed their annual Christmas Party with a festive dinner at the Timp Freeze.

On Nov. 14, the Midway Garden Club held their night of Christmas ideas and voting in new officers. Maren Durtschi, President; Lyn Goffaux, First Vice President; Clara Lundin, Second Vice President; Joyce Craig, Historian; June Tatton, Secretary.

Out-going officers were President, Marge Anderson; Vivian Probst, and Wilma Pope, Vice Presidents.

Dal Hills has been chosen to teach the Gospel Doctrine Class at the Midway Third Ward.

John and Lorie Harding were the speakers at the Midway Third Ward Sacrament Service Sunday. John is a Seminary teacher and High Councilman.

First Ward Sacrament Service LaMarr Nichols and David Eldridge, of the Midway Stake High Council, were the speakers. A song was sang

by the Relief Society. Bryant Whiting and Marilyn Larson gave a duet.

Fourth Ward Violet Ladange was sustained as Primary Counselor; Mike Rigby, Stake Mission President spoke. Also, Steve Edwards of the High Council.

Second Ward. Gary Coleman Counselor in the Stake Presidency, and his wife, Carol, were Sacrament Meeting speakers. Justin Kelly was sustained to be advanced to a Priest in the Aaronic Priesthood. Jason Kelly was sustained to be ordained and given the office of Deacon.

Dan and Lee Johnson and family finished moving Sunday. Their Midway home is for rent or sale.

Mike and Barbara Wright Valancia are the new managers of the Vicking Motel (formerly Green Acres).

France Probst is improving. Linda Haws has a broken ankle. Connie Tatton is recuperating from siatica. Roy Loertscher is still in intensive care at the LDS Hospital,

where he underwent major surgery and suffered a heart attack. George Johnson is still in the Wasatch County Hospital.

Saturday night, Charles Kruser spoke to a few people about joining him in a trip to Switzerland in September.

Lincoln Pugh is recovering nicely after open heart surgery at the Utah Valley surgery on Friday.

At William and Millie Dahls, in Swiss Mountain Estates, the snow is 18 inches deep.

Arlin and Elaine Foulter enjoyed a trip to California, where they visited their children there, and helped them on their home. They brought their trailer home back as far as St. George, where they have it set up at Twin Lakes RV Park Space 139, where they will spend the winter. They were surprised to find snow so deep they had to walk in from Bird Drive in Swiss Alpine Estates.

Century 21

WASATCH MOUNTAIN PROPERTIES 654-3410

575 North Main Street, Heber City, Utah 84032

- \$ 48,500 Charming 3-bdrm. home on a tree-lined street w/large lot, oak hardwood floors, woodstove, water softener.
- \$175,000 Large **restored** pioneer home has 4 bdrms., 3 baths, formal dining. Listed on State & National Historical Registers.
- \$ 92,900 Large log home - nearly 2800 sq. ft., on 2/3 acre with stream, trees. Seller will consider contract with good down.
- \$249,900 Gorgeous Midway home 1/2 mile from State Park. 3 bdrms., 2 baths, large landscaped lot, deck, covered patio, sprinkler sys.
- \$ 25,500 1981 dbl-wide mobile home has 3 bdrms., 1.75 baths, patio, deck, swamp cooler, strg shed. Fully landscaped & fenced lot.
- \$125,000 Beautifully restored 1891 Brick, 4 bdrms., 2 baths, formal dining, stone fence around courtyard, 2 covered porches, more!
- \$ 89,500 This big, roomy home is perfect for a large family! 4 bdrms., 2.5 baths, family room, fireplace, corral for horses.

Karen Korfanta 654-1321
Anita Popp 654-1494
Rick Widdison 654-2088



Sterling Anderson 654-3964
Sherry Sawday 654-2976
Ruth Maxfield 654-3438

INDEPENDENTLY OWNED AND OPERATED

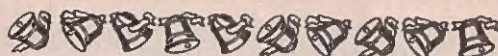
Swiss Christmas Entertainment

On Saturday, Dec. 3, Midway will be holding its second year of Swiss Christmas. There will be lots of fun and entertainment for all.

During the day, there will be the Midway Children's Chorus, directed by Cindy Huffaker. The 1988 Swiss Miss will be performing a solo vocal, and a piano duet. Later in the afternoon, there will be an instrumental featuring a xylophone. There will be a dancing group, a women quartet, and the Stake Choir. Also, Kris Kringle will be arriving at 2 p.m.

Come and enjoy all the delicious food, fun and entertainment.

3rd Annual CHRISTMAS LIGHTING & DECORATING CONTEST



Businesses will be automatically judged after dark on December 3rd. There will be three commercial categories:

Small
Medium
Large

Each entry will be judged on the use of decorations and lighting in the areas of *Originality and Creativity*. A plaque will be awarded.